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WCU to open medical school in 2010

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A School of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University (WCU) in Hattiesburg will begin accepting 100 medical students in the fall of 2010, university officials announced March 8 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

"We think it is one of the most important events in the history of William Carey," said WCU President Tommy King. "We think it is significant for south Mississippi, perhaps the entire state, and we certainly think we will make an impact on the healthcare of rural Mississippians in the years to come."

William Carey University is one of three institutions of higher learning in the state that are affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The other schools are Mississippi College in Clinton and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

King also announced the appointment of Michael K. Murphy as the founding dean of the WCU School of Osteopathic Medicine. Murphy, who holds a doctor of osteopathy degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mo., comes to WCU from Pikeville College's School of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville, Ky., where he served as an associate dean.

Murphy also served as a physician in the U.S. Navy for 30 years.

"I want to thank Dr. King, the trustees, and faculty for having the foresight to move forward on this project. There is a lot of work to be done. We have to build a faculty. We have to raise the money," said Murphy, who is a member of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

Osteopathy was developed 130 years ago by physician A.T. Still, according to the web site of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and is one of the fastest growing healthcare professions in the U.S. Osteopathy brings a unique philosophy to traditional medicine, the web site states, with a strong emphasis on the inter-relationship of the body's nerves, muscles, bones and organs.

Doctors of osteopathic medicine, or D.O.s, apply the philosophy of treating the whole person to the prevention,



MED SCHOOL DEAN — Michael K. Murphy was introduced March 8 at the Baptist Building in Jackson as the founding dean of the William Carey University (WCU) School of Osteopathic Medicine, which will open its doors to 100 medical students in 2010. WCU, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will have only the second medical school in Mississippi and the first new medical school in the state over 100 years. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

diagnosis, and treatment of illness, disease, and injury, according to the AOA web site.

Prospective osteopathic medical students must meet an undergraduate core curriculum and pass the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Upon admission to one of the 25 accredited osteopathic medical schools in the U.S., students enter a four-year course of study that includes internships and residencies, much like their Medical Doctor (M.D.) counterparts.

Upon graduation, newly-minted D.O.s must be licensed and are regulated by their prospective states. All 50 states license D.O.s for the practice of medicine.

Murphy pointed out that many areas of Mississippi are medically underserved at present, and studies he has seen indicate the nation could be as many as 20,000 physicians short by 2020. "The solution to that problem is to train more physicians. We are going to be training primary care physicians in a community-based training program," he said.

Murphy said osteopathic physicians must be able to use their "heads, hands, and hearts." He also said he wants the WCU School of Osteopathic Medicine to craft a disaster preparedness curriculum and other programs specific to Mississippi and its special needs.

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, commended King on his "vision, heart, and

tenacity," that resulted in the announcement of the WCU School of Osteopathic Medicine after 15 months of planning.

Futral also pointed to one of the names for Jesus Christ: the Great Physician. "The Great Physician will bring other physicians alongside Him," he said.

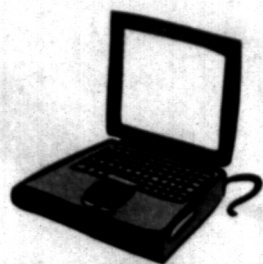
Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Michael K. Randolph, a former WCU trustee, attended the announcement and welcomed the news of the new medical school — only the second medical school in Mississippi and first new medical school in the state in over 100 years.

Randolph said he is encouraged Mississippi will have a Christ-centered medical school that could potentially have international impact as foreign students come to the U.S., study osteopathy at WCU, and return to their home countries to practice medicine.

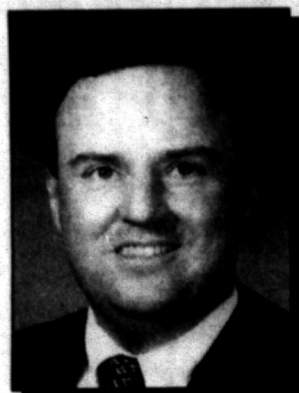
"This is going to create opportunities in Central and South America," beyond the short-term mission trips organized by Mississippi Baptists, Randolph predicted. "People are going to get saved as a result of this effort. That's what's really important," he said.

For more information on the WCU School of Osteopathic Medicine, contact Michael K. Murphy, D.O., Dean, School of Osteopathic Medicine, William Carey University, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401. Telephone: (601) 318-6051 or toll-free outside Hattiesburg (800) 962-5991.

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All that glitters...

Gambling in all its many now-legal forms has for years been promoted to the American people as a way to get rich quick and short-circuit all the quaint old notions about ambition and working hard to get ahead. Very few months pass without big newspaper headlines describing someone down on their luck who has just won a million dollars at a casino or in a state-sponsored lottery.

On the heels of a recently-announced, multi-state lottery win of almost \$280 million, Mississippi legislators have again this year been mulling a lottery proposal that would tie proceeds to free college educations for qualified students. The bill died in committee, but these things have a way of being resurrected in the Legislature — and there's always next year's legislative session and the year after that. We'd best be watchful.

No one wants to deny a promising young person the ability to go to college, but is a lottery the way to fund such a worthy goal? Does the nobility of using lottery proceeds for education outweigh the downside of legalized gambling?

It's a fact that most people who purchase lottery tickets don't do so to support education. They do it because their state government has convinced them a lottery is the way to get rich quick.

Facing bankruptcy? Can't pay your medical bills? Is the mortgage company foreclosing on your home? No problem! Everything can be taken care of with the purchase of a fistful of lottery tickets —

because we all know that money solves everything, right?

Not exactly. The web site, Bankrate.com, some time ago published a series of authoritative articles written by Ellen Goodstein that really nails down the fantasy/fallacy of gambling as a ticket to Easy Street.

"For a lot of people, winning the lottery is the American dream. But for many lottery winners, the reality is more like a nightmare," Goodstein writes.

"Winning the lottery isn't always what it's cracked up to be," says Evelyn Adams, who won the New Jersey lottery not just once but twice (1985, 1986) to the tune of \$5.4 million. Today the money is all gone and Adams lives in a trailer.

"I won the American dream but I lost it, too. It was a very hard fall. It's called rock bottom," says Adams.

Another lottery winner tracked down by Goodstein, William "Bud" Post, won more than \$16 million in the Pennsylvania lottery in 1988. Within a year, all the money was gone and he was one million dollars in debt. His brother allegedly attempted to hire a hit man to kill him for the money, and Post himself served a sentence for shooting at a bill collector.

Post is now bankrupt and living off \$450 a month in Social Security and food stamps. "I wish it never happened. It was totally a nightmare," he told Goodstein.

Other lottery winners who actually lost in the long run, according to Goodstein, include:

- Suzanne Mullins, who won \$4.2 million in the Virginia Lottery in 1993. She is now deeply in debt and facing a judgment against her of nearly \$155,000.

- Ken Proxmire, who won one million dollars in the Michigan lottery. Within five years, he was forced to file bankruptcy.

- Willie Hurt, who also won the Michigan lottery to the tune of \$3.1 million in 1989.

Two years later, he was penniless and charged with murder.

- Janite Lee won \$18 million in the Missouri Lottery in 1993, but filed for bankruptcy a few years later with only \$700 in assets.

- A winner who wished to be identified only as being from the Southeast, won a \$4.2 million lottery jackpot in the early 1990s but is now broke, divorced, and living with his/her adult children.

All of those horror stories are merely one dark side of legalized gambling that Mississippians should consider when we are confronted with the next pie-in-the-sky scheme from the gambling/political complex in this state.

As a matter of fact, Mississippi could be the next sad entry on Goodstein's losers list. As legislators struggle yet again with the annual state budget crisis, we should all remember that the gambling/political complex assured us (and continues to assure us to this day) that legalized gambling will have us rolling in money forever.

Our schools were supposed to be flush with perpetual funding, but that hasn't happened. Our highways were going to be the envy of the nation, but that hasn't happened. The unfulfilled promises could go on, *ad nauseum*.

We've heard it many times from many wise people: We cannot gamble our way to prosperity. When will we come to our senses?

During the last few months we have seen significant volatility in the financial markets. Staying the course in a roller coaster market can be a major challenge. Wise investors do well to remember some very important principles of investing that should be considered in all market environments, including the uncertain conditions that we now face:

- Always focus on your objectives, not your emotions. Remember the goals that you have established and the time frame that you have to invest. Has anything really changed? Are your retirement goals and time horizon still the same? Goals are established for times like these. They help so that you can stick with a plan and not be swayed by emotion during difficult market environments.

Consider that historically the stock market has been friendly, yielding many more positive returns than negative ones. Industry research firm Ned Davis Research, Inc., looked at stock performance over an 80-year period, 1926 through 2006. What it found was 88% of the five-year periods, 97% of the 10-year periods, and 100% of the 20-year periods yielded a positive return. While past performance is no guarantee of future performance, the market itself has been resilient through the years.

- Avoid making impulsive decisions. Guard against making

GUEST OPINION:



Riding out the market

By Roy Hayhurst
GuideStone Financial Resources

ad hoc changes in your portfolio. Making changes based on short-term market movements is almost a guarantee for failure as it promotes "buying high and selling low." The performance of your account moving forward will be determined based on results of the financial markets in the future, not the past. Selling today cannot avoid yesterday's losses in a down market. Likewise, in an up market, you cannot buy yesterday's performance by investing in the hottest fund.

If you absolutely have to make changes in your portfolio, consider making them in small increments. This allows you to dollar cost average and gives you time to more seriously consider your actions.

Getting out of the market during roller-coaster rides is seldom a smart move. What happens if you're out of the market and the market goes up? Consider an investor who invested in an S&P

500 Index fund from January 1985 until March 2007. An investor who parked his money there for all 5,607 trading days would have an average annualized return of 12.8%. That period includes "Black Monday," Oct. 19, 1987, the tech bubble burst of 2001, and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Another investor got jittery every time the market pendulum swung from profit to loss. He missed the 10 best days over the course of those 12 years. His average annualized return drops to 10.2%. Miss the 30 best days, and his average annualized return is 6.6%. If one misses the 50 best days of market performance, the annual average return drops to 3.7% — barely above the rate of bank certificates of deposit. (Information gathered from Westwood Holdings Group, Inc.)

- Don't count your losses. Tallying up how much has been lost in your account serves no

purpose. If you want to measure the progress/status of your investment account, focus on the gains realized in the equity (stock) markets over longer periods of time.

- Maintain realistic expectations about market behavior. Financial markets move up and down over time in response to social, political and economic events. Equity investors should be able to accept significant short-term fluctuations in the value of their portfolios.

- Still confused and want a simplified approach to investing over the long-haul? That's why GuideStone Funds launched a new series of mutual funds, the MyDestination Funds. These funds are date target or life cycle funds which are diversified "fund-of-funds" that have an asset allocation that gradually becomes more conservative as you approach retirement.

Hopefully, you will use these principles as you consider what to do with your retirement account. If you would like to talk about your account with a GuideStone representative, please call (888) 98-GUIDE.

Hayhurst is the senior marketing communications editor for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Dallas. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Missionaries see fruit of church planting

HARRISONBURG, Va. (BP) — The passion that grips North American missionaries David and Shirley Proffitt is winning the next generation to Christ by planting churches near college campuses — and their passion has turned into a family affair.

Seven years ago, the Proffitts left Southern California, where the couple and their grown son and daughter had been planting new churches for 25 years, to move to Virginia. There they have been planting collegiate churches as missionaries supported by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV).

David and Shirley are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions and Southern Baptist churches' gifts through the Cooperative Program. The Proffitts were featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer on March 2-9, the theme of which is "Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment." The AAEO goal is \$61 million.

At James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., the Proffitts' first Virginia church plant, Aletheia (Greek for "truth") Church, has grown in six years from four members to a regular attendance of about 400 each Sunday.

The Proffitts' 29-year-old son Aaron is Aletheia's worship leader and pastor. Amy, their 30-year-old daughter, serves as a counselor for the church, which meets in a renovated warehouse in Harrisonburg. Aaron's wife Ashlee is a semester missionary, while Amy's husband Jon also is on Aletheia's leadership team.

"Three-quarters of the 400 are students," David said. "The rest of them were probably former students who have gotten married and now have their own children. This is a church that has leadership, supports the Cooperative Program, sends missionaries out, disciples, trains and teaches," David explained.

James Madison University, located in the scenic Shenandoah Valley, has an enrollment of some 17,000 students — 4,000 of them freshman, the largest freshman class in the school's history.

David, 57, who relocates and plants campus churches much like itinerant missionary Johnny Appleseed planted apple trees, said starting a church on a college campus can be difficult.

"The challenges come when the university is not friendly toward a Christian organization, Christian ministry, churches, and

Christian campus organizations," he noted. "They've been pretty friendly here in Virginia. We have to realize that each place is a unique setting. Even though they're college and university students, they still are different, no matter where."

David said one reason he enjoys working with college students is because of the varied demographics they represent.

"College students are mobile. They are ready for risk-taking and challenges. They're ready to pursue whatever might be next," he said. "They're developing their values. They are in transition. Usually they're more flexible. They usually don't have much debt and don't have to worry about a house to sell. They're teachable and open. They love to get together, they love to study and they don't want to be 'dumbed' down."

"They love the Word. They're not as hard to reach evangelistically as a lot of people think. As we train and teach them, and show them how to do hands-on ministry, the more interested they become. The more they are taught and the more they get equipped, the more focused they become, and the more loyal they become."

When it became clear that Aletheia Church in Harrisonburg was in the good hands of Aaron, Amy, and their spouses, David and Shirley moved on to Richmond, home of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), the largest university in Virginia with 32,000 students. There they launched yet another church, also called Aletheia, in downtown Richmond.

When they first planted the Richmond church, the Proffitts began by holding a series of Bible studies. For each Bible study, Shirley would invite and feed up to 18 people in their campus apartment.

"Shirley has been our hospitality leader and always prepares terrific meals for all the people we invite over. She uses hospitality to assist with the evangelism process," David said.

"Every day our team is going out on the campus of VCU and to surrounding housing



NEW BELIEVER — Jordan Minnick (left) and North American Mission Board church planting missionary David Proffitt baptize new believer Allyn Clark, a student at Virginia Commonwealth University, in the chilly James River in Richmond, Va. (NAMB photo by Alice Rusher)

and talking to students, building relationships and doing intentional evangelism," he noted. "We've seen hundreds and hundreds of people become Christians. We have even baptized new believers in the James River."

With Aletheia Church in Richmond now running about 200 people each Sunday, David and Shirley have moved on to Norfolk to plant a third Aletheia at Old Dominion University.

Proffitt feels strongly about the need for Southern Baptists to be involved in ministry on the college campus. "It's important because it's the future of the Southern Baptist Convention as a denomination. I grew up as a Southern Baptist, but the people who were the older people in the church I grew up in are gone now. They're in heaven. So we have to continue to think about the next generation, preparing the next generation, getting the next generation ready."

"The next generation can go in any direction," Proffitt added. "We want to lead them in a spiritual direction — understanding who God is, understanding that He sent His son, Jesus Christ, and that they can have a personal relationship with Him."



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Baptists respond

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — About 100 families in an isolated area on Zambia's Lunsemfwa River will be receiving food assistance after heavy rains and flooding wiped out their crops and some homes. Kevin Rodgers, a Baptist Global Response field partner, will be trucking 55-pound bags of cornmeal to a river landing where the bags will be loaded onto a rubber boat and taken 30 minutes up the river. "The boat can only hold about 500 pounds of cargo, so it will take 15-20 trips over two days to move the entire shipment," said Mark Hatfield, who leads Baptist Global Response work in sub-Saharan Africa. "The Lunsemfwa River has lots of hippo and crocodile, so there's plenty of adventure in this small project." Families in the area will be able to replant maize along the river once the waters recede and should be able to see a harvest in a few months, Rodgers said. The bags of cornmeal should be enough to tide them over until residents can bring in a new harvest. In addition to providing destitute people with needed food relief, this effort also will help improve future working relationships in a remote area where outsiders, especially Westerners, are not trusted, Rodgers added. The project is being financed with \$3,200 from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Looking back

10 years ago

During a thunderstorm and downpour on Mar. 5, ground is broken for the new \$1.5 million adult lodge at Camp Garaywa near Clinton. The occasion was saved from ruin by a sturdy revival-style tent.

20 years ago

The Mississippi WMU 109th annual meeting at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, marks the WMU centennial celebration. Theme interpretations were given by retired executive secretary-treasurer, Edwina Robinson.

50 years ago

The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Brooks Hays, is criticized by the NAACP for opposition to a bill introduced in Congress calling for the establishment of a joint committee of the Congress to study the results of the Supreme Court decision on school desegregation.



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with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.

ANONYMOUS GIVING

I have always found giving that is done anonymously to be fascinating. I suppose that in one sense, most of the giving that is done at our churches is both given and received anonymously because the end user/receiver rarely knows who gave and the donor may not ever see or know the person who was blessed. There are certainly exceptions to that, but over all that is the way that it works. When there is a specific gift given by someone for a specific cause that touches a life or a number of lives and the giver remains anonymous, it is intriguing to see how it is used of the Lord. Sometimes people want to give anonymously because they do not want other people to know about their giving and hound them to give to other causes. While occasionally that is true, probably more people give anonymously because they honestly do not want to be elevated, exalted, or overly praised.

Recently one of our Baptist college presidents was telling me of the gracious gifts that people have given to the institution and pointed out that so many of them wanted to remain anonymous. They did good things and made a tremendous difference in the school and students but literally, no one will know how it all came about. That certainly has a downside to it because there are many people who will be blessed, but they will not know how to go about saying thank you to someone who made a



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

difference in their lives. Since there is no person to thank and no way to acknowledge the gift it is just kind of overlooked and forgotten. Sometimes you do not know how to say thank you because of this giving feature.

Not long ago, I was preaching in one of our fine churches. When the pastor introduced me as the speaker of the day, he had a little fancy, fixed-up, nice gift bag that had some paper stuffing in it. He said it was from one of the members of the church who had read in a Directions article that I had written about how much I liked peanuts and, in fact, all kinds of nuts. Inside the sack was a gift of peanuts. When I got up to speak, I said that I would like to know who it was that gave me the peanuts, to which the pastor responded and said, "Well, it is an anonymous gift." I replied, "That's fine. If everybody else does not know, then I would like for whoever was so thoughtful and kind to let me know so that I can thank them." That was not a part of the deal, and though I was there after the service and stayed for dinner, nobody acknowledged the good deed. Several admitted that it was not them.

I kept watching for someone who might look guilty in a good way, and it would allow me to shake a hand and say thank you. The problem was that I had to assume that it was everybody there or at least all of the ladies there. It forced me to be nice to every one of them for being so nice to me. I left the church that day never knowing who was so kind as to buy me some peanuts, wrap them up, and have someone else give them to me. I left there having been blessed by one after another after another who possibly had been the anonymous gift giver. I repeatedly thought about the nice gesture and wondered which one of the ladies had provided the kind expression. The anonymous peanut giver allowed me to be blessed by everybody who was there, and that is the way I drove down the road feeling about that church.

Isn't it strange that the opposite is true when anonymous bad things are done? I have always had a low regard for anonymous letters and the people who write them. One person can take the time to write a nasty, demeaning, and hurtful letter and by doing so try to cre-

ate suspicion of everybody because everyone appears to be guilty of the act of meanness. I have always regarded anonymous letter writers as terrorists. They may not set off a bomb on the side of the road, but they are attempting to create suspicion, paranoia, and fear. They try to make you think that everyone felt the same as they had written in their cowardly expression. Because there is no way to evaluate, respond, or help, I choose simply to disregard any and all of those gifts.

Anonymous good deeds seem to linger and bless you far beyond the moment itself. Over 30 years ago, my family and I were at a restaurant. When we finished the meal and I got the check, I realized that I did not have enough money to pay for the bill. I sat there wondering what in the world I was going to do. I could use my credit card but did not want to, so I wondered if they would take a personal check. Finally, when we got ready to go and I went to the cash register, I was told that the meal had been taken care of, and I asked, "What do you mean?" The response was, "Everything has already been paid." We were in a restaurant where I did not remember seeing anyone that I thought would know me although I recognized two or three people. I asked the lady if she would please tell me who did it. She said, "Well, they did not want me to tell you, and I really don't know who they are." You feel overwhelmed at a moment like that. Then and now I have wondered and wondered who was so kind, and in spite of the fact that they did not know that I did not have enough money, they had done a wonderful deed that touched my life. The memory lingers with me still.

I believe that it is somewhere in this area of quietly giving, doing, and caring that needs no fanfare or personal exaltation that Jesus was talking about when He said, "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matt. 6:3). It is not always easy to do that, but occasionally when you have opportunity to be a blessing and can do it quietly, sincerely, and lovingly try doing so anonymously. Let the Lord do the blessing and make the applications in their life that hopefully will linger with them for a lifetime. For the meal, the peanuts, kind encouraging notes, and the money that was given anonymously, I want each of you to know how grateful I am and what a continual blessing you have been to my heart.

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First Person: Holy Land tour inspires awe

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

It's not too often that deferred dreams come true, but in my case, this is exactly what happened.

For one exhilarating week, Jan. 9-15, I had the extraordinary good fortune to visit Israel, the Holy Land, with eight editors of other state Baptist newspapers. I'll not discuss the political intrigues of the Middle East — you'll find that kind of information in news media elsewhere. Rather, I'd prefer to simply share some impressions and to encourage you to seriously consider visiting this complex, beautiful, and deeply spiritual ancient land. If you're looking for a critique, you won't find it here.

Many years ago I had a trip to Israel in the works, only to end up using those funds to buy an engagement ring instead (a good decision then, and a good decision to this day.) So that deferred dream became a reality, and when asked, "Did you have a good time?" I can say without reservation that it exceeded every expectation I had.

My other standard comment — not original with me — is that "I ran where Jesus walked." Typically, a tourist who treats this sort of trip like a pilgrimage will want to cram in as much as possible in their allotted time, which means viewing some sites at a gallop.

We toured as guests of the Israel Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry's logo depicts two men carrying a huge cluster of grapes. There is some wry humor at work here, since those two men represent Joshua and Caleb, who went as spies into the Promised Land and brought back a good report, in spite of the naysayers around them.

Some people actually took pity on me for visiting a place as "dangerous" as Israel. It was as though I were staring death in the face.

Time to lay a horrific misrepresentation to rest. We were safe. As in any travel abroad, it pays to be diligent and have "situational awareness," but that would be true in metro Jackson as well. Israeli guides go through a rigorous training regimen, and certainly wouldn't take us into any questionable areas. We did look over into the Syrian border and passed by fields with signs warning of land mines, but at no time did I feel as though we were taking any risks by being there.

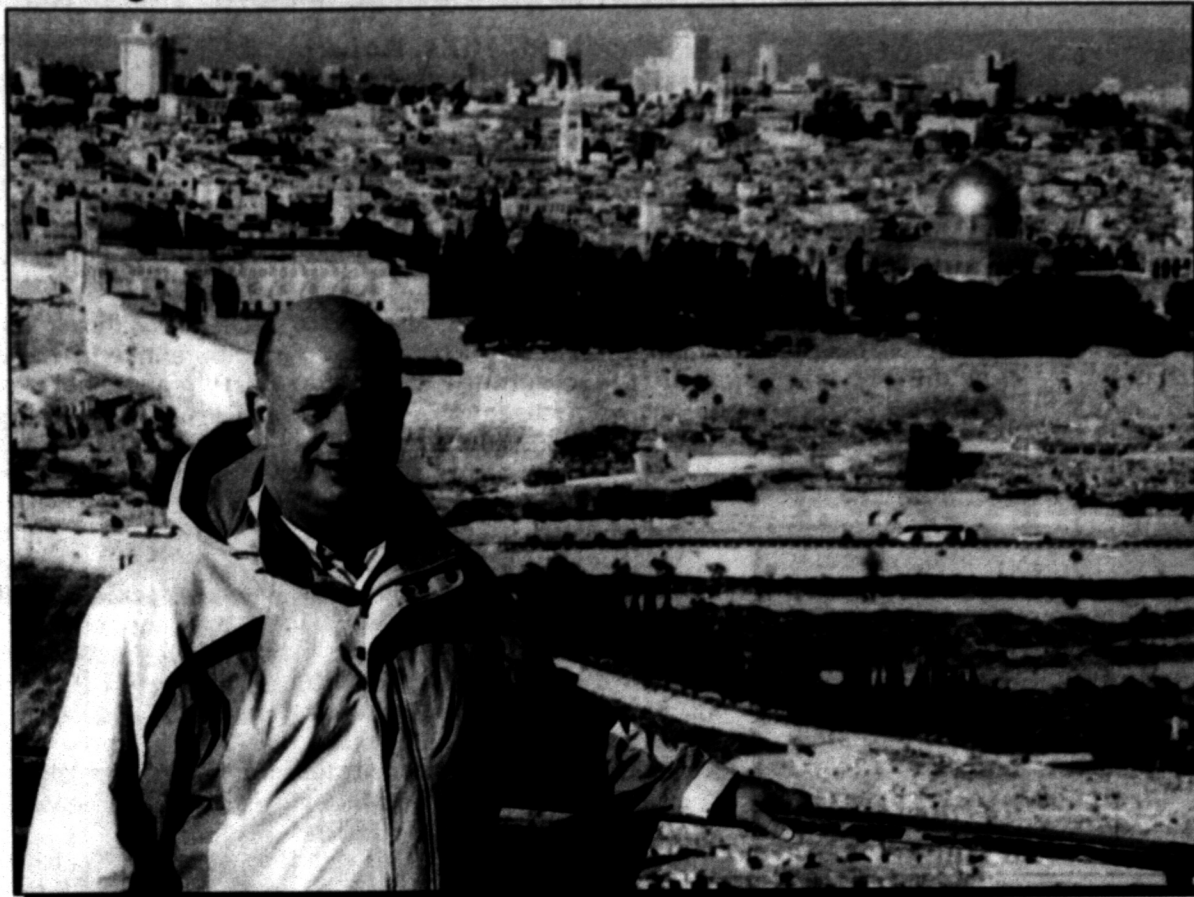
Security was tight, especially in Jerusalem, but it served to comfort rather than alarm.

Impressions

- Israel packs a lot of geographical diversity into one compact country. From the turquoise blue of the Mediterranean seen in Tel Aviv, Caesarea, and Haifa; from the verdant rolling hills of the Galilee, surrounding the pea-sized body of water we know as the Sea of Galilee; to the brutal ruggedness of the mountains and crags around the Dead Sea; and the surprisingly hilly terrain of Jerusalem, Israel provides everything from snow skiing in the north to barren desert in the south.

- "Sabra" is the slang term for a native-born Israeli Jew, and is also the name of the native prickly pear cactus. The allusion is to a tenacious, thorny desert plant with a thick hide that conceals a sweet, softer interior — tough on the outside, sweet and tender on the inside. It is a perfect picture of many of the folk we met. Israelis are passionate and argumentative, but can at the same time show extraordinary Mediterranean warmth and hospitality.

- I had to redefine "antiquity." In the States, any historical site 200 years old is positively ancient. To the Israeli, anything less than 1,000 years old is new. As an example, we visited the ancient city of Megiddo, over-



HOLY CITY — Tony Martin, associate editor of The Baptist Record, looks over Jerusalem during a January 9-15 trip to Israel sponsored by the Israel Ministry of Tourism. Martin was accompanied on the tour by several Baptist editors from across the Southern Baptist Convention. (Special photo)

looking the Valley of Jezreel, the site of the climactic Battle of Armageddon at the End of Days. This important archaeological site consists of 26 layers of civilization dating back as far as 7000 BC. It is not unusual to find layer after layer of ruins — be they first or second Temple period, Byzantine, Crusader, Ottoman — built on top of each other.

When visiting Jerusalem, in particular, it seemed as though we spent as much time touring underground as we did on the surface, especially in the City of David and around excavations of the Western Wall at the Temple Mount.

- As a history buff, I was intrigued by Masada. This place — which was Herod the Great's fortified palace, overlooking the lowest place on earth, the Dead Sea — was the site where Jewish rebels in 73 A.D. took their last stand against the Roman Empire. This poignant site reminded me for all the world of the Alamo, and is venerated by Israelis the country over.

- There was something unique in actually seeing and experiencing what I've read in the Bible. I stood atop Mt. Carmel, where Elijah found victory over the high priests of Baal. I sailed the Sea of Galilee in a simple wooden boat — and when the captain killed the engine, and all we could hear was the lapping of water against the hull and the occasional cry of waterfowl — I knew that Jesus had experienced these same things.

I prowled the ruins of Capernaum, where Jesus spent much of his ministry, and saw the traditional site of Peter's house. I stood at the recently discovered and excavated Pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed the blind man in John 9. I saw Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, where Jesus will once again return, and pondered the Dome of the Rock on the site of Solomon's Temple, and arguably the most contested piece of real estate in the world. Unbelievable.

- Three very emotional experiences stand out. One was in the Garden of Gethsemane, where botanists say the gnarled olive trees in a simple fenced enclosure are over 2,000 years old — mute witnesses to Christ's decision to be obedient to His Father and thus offer us salvation. The

Church of All Nations adjacent to the garden is a dimly-lit, somber sanctuary which captures without words Jesus' agony.

The second was visiting Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust museum: simply shattering, and a monument to the wickedness of man and the redemptive power of hope.

Third, while we were visiting the Western (Wailing) Wall, I had the singular experience of being approached by a young Hassidic Jew. He introduced himself (in perfect English — language barriers were not an issue on this trip) and said, "Would you like to visit the synagogue?"

There was a synagogue adjacent to the Wall, and I accompanied him, unsure of protocol but grateful for the invitation. Once inside, he asked the names of my wife and children, took me over to a case containing a scroll, and had me place my hand on the case while he laid his hand on me and prayed for my family and me. This was a special and unexpectedly moving moment for me, even though theologically I was miles away from this gentleman.

I can't imagine a Christian making a trip like this and remaining unmoved. At the risk of hyperbole, it was life-changing (or, at least, life-affirming) for me. Of course I urge those who are able and have the resources to visit the Holy Land, and there are many reputable tour organizers who can make that a reality.

The Israel Ministry of Tourism maintains a helpful website for interested parties at www.goisrael.com, and I will be happy to share my impressions with you if you give me a call.

Ultimately, though, God is all-sufficient, and able to give life and hope to all, whether someone has the opportunity to visit the Holy Land or not. Scripture teaches that the "word of God is living and active" (Hebrews 4:12, NIV), so it would be inaccurate to say that the Bible "comes to life" in this ancient land. It's already alive. Still, God does use this special land, where "the stones still speak," in the wise words of our guide, to reaffirm what we all believe.

It drew me just a bit closer to my Savior, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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HR EBHR IAVSHK
KBRVNSWT ORX ASUH
WBN XR GW UETW EO ASKA
MVSWHX; GDX AW XAEX
HEST DOXR ASU, XARD EVX
UJ HRO, XR TEJ AEZW S
GWKRXXWO XAWW.

AWGVWPH NSZW: NSZW.

CLUE: Z=V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans: Ten Nine

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. New members, Woodland Hills



8. Boyd ordination, Fredonia Church



16. GAs, Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



17. Evergreen Church, Shubuta, deacons

1. Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, and Faith Church, Jackson, recently united. More than 30 members of Faith have joined Woodland Hills since the first of February. Shown are some of the new members.

2. Baxterville Church, Lumberton, licensed Benny Mark Rayborn to preach Feb. 10.

3. The adult choir, chamber orchestra, and drama group of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, will present a concert of Easter music Mar. 20, 7 p.m.

4. Mt. Vernon Church, Mississippi Association, Liberty exceeded their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$3500 by collecting \$3846. Clint Penalber, pastor.

5. LeMoyne Church, Biloxi, will host an informative look at issues dealing with creation, evolution, and intelligent design Mar. 16, 5 p.m., followed by revival services, 7 p.m.

6. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will host Forgiven by Grace Mar. 15, 6 p.m.

7. Sunrise Church, Leake County, will host The Providentials in concert Mar. 16, 6 p.m.

8. Fredonia Church, New Albany, ordained Ronnie Boyd as deacon. His father-in-law Ben Parman performed the ordination. Shown are Chris Aldridge, Boyd, Beth Boyd, Paige Boyd, Harrison Boyd, and Parman.

9. Cruger Church, Cruger met its proposed Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$2200 the first day of collection, ultimately receiving \$2500.

10. First Church, Sledge, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal on Feb. 3.

11. The adult choir and drama team of Calvary Church, Hattiesburg, will present My Savior, My God Mar. 16, 6 p.m.

12. Leaf River Church, Pineville Community, will host a showing of The Passion of the Christ Mar. 16, 6 p.m.; will have an Easter egg hunt Mar. 22, 3 p.m.; fish fry, 5 p.m.; and their Easter cantata Mar. 23, 7 a.m., followed by breakfast.



18. Ludlow Church, Ludlow



19. Youth, Mt. Olive Church, Baldwin



20. Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, note burning

13. First Church, Sumrall, will host the Booth Brothers in concert Mar. 27, 7 p.m. For more information and tickets, call (601) 758-4738 or 758-4589.

14. The choir of Antioch Church, Brandon, will present Because He Lives Mar. 23, 8 a.m., followed by breakfast.

15. New Salem Church, Caledonia, is presenting the musical So You Would Come Mar. 22, 7 p.m., and

Mar. 23, 10:30 a.m. The church's Easter schedule includes worship, 7:30 a.m.; breakfast, 8:30 a.m.; and Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

16. The GAs of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, helped pack food boxes at Christian Services for Angel Food Ministry and delivered goody bags to the patients at the children's ward at Forrest General Hospital Feb. 16. Shown are the GAs.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

17. **Evergreen Church, Shubuta**, observed Deacon's Appreciation Day Jan. 27. Shown, front, are Kevin Moody, James Snellgrove, Richard Gatlin, and Tracy Goldman; back, pastor John Franklin, Charles Burns, Pete Cochran, and Kenneth Donald.
18. **Ludlow Church, Ludlow**, hosted a Valentine Banquet for widows and widowers Feb. 16. Shown are the participants.
19. The youth of **Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn**, operated a Christmas card mailbox during the holidays, with the proceeds going toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The youth raised \$400. Shown are the participants.
20. **Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch** had a note burning Jan. 13, making the church debt free in 2 years. Pictured are Michael Weeks, pastor and Henry Holt, finance committee chairman.

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula**, has called Brooks Delk as youth minister. Shown with Delk is his wife Natalie and son William.
2. **First Church, Mt. Pleasant**, has called Donald J. LaBelle as pastor. He comes from Cloverdale Church, Montgomery, Ala.
3. **Faith Church, Barton**, has called John R. Prothro as pastor. He comes with his wife Martha. He pastored Grand Cane church in Louisiana and Calvary Church, Holly Springs.



1. Delk, Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula

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OBITUARY

William Monroe Hull, Jr., died Jan. 13. Hull was born Apr. 26, 1915 in Montgomery County. He graduated from Mississippi College in 1938, pastored several churches in Montgomery and Carroll Counties, and retired from the ministry in 1986. He was married to Dorothy Marie Vance in 1944 and they had four daughters. She died in 1989. He was married to Erna Lee Stoker from 1990 until her death in 2005, and she is survived by two children. He is survived by two brothers, Stacy Hull and Charles Hull; three surviving daughters, Sandra Inman, Barbara Burns, and Beverly Young; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Hull

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COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

1. **John R. Pace, Jr.**, pastor of First Church, Terry, received his PhD degree from New Orleans seminary Dec. 15.
2. **Mississippi College's School of Science & Mathematics** is overseeing the new Engineering Physics Program that will enroll its first students in August 2008. The program is designed to prepare MC undergraduates for careers in industry or graduate studies in engineering and physics.
3. **William P. Smith III of Tupelo** will soon become the new leader of the Mississippi College Alumni Association.
4. By this spring, **Mississippi College** leaders hope to donate at least \$20,000 to help with recovery efforts for its sister Baptist institution in Jackson, Tenn. The Tennessee institution is struggling after a tornado slammed into the campus and left an estimated \$40 million in damages. It destroyed about 70 percent of the student housing and slammed into other buildings on campus.
5. Competing with more than 4,000 students from the United States, Canada and other nations, Mississippi College junior **Anna Hays** landed a much-coveted spot in the upcoming "Best of College Photography Annual 2008."
6. **Clint Martin**, a Tuskegee historian and artist; **Sandra King**, wife of WCU president Tommy King; and an unidentified woman speak following Martin's presentation to a crowd of approximately 65 during a Black History Month event held on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. Sponsored by the African American Cultural Society Plus, Martin's presentation included a history of the elite group of African American pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen who fought during World War II for the United States and videotaped interviews of several of the airmen alive today telling their stories.
7. **Connie Roberts**, professor of music at William Carey University, was one of four artist teachers in the state honored by the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education and invited to their annual workshop "Artist as Teacher" held recently in Utica.



3. Smith



5. Hays



6. Martin and King



7. Roberts, WCU

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Wanilla Church, Monticello: 100th anniversary celebration, Apr. 13; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal.

New Hope Church, McComb: Revival, Mar. 24-26, 7 p.m.; James Price, speaker; J. Wesley Jones, pastor.

Leflore Church, Holcomb: Revival, Mar. 16 - 19; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Crofford, speaker; Second Chance, music.

Fairview Church, Indianola: Revival, Mar. 27 - 30; Thurs. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker.

Financial study course launched by SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's renewed stewardship emphasis is well-timed for the culture, because It's a New Day is gaining momentum just as the nation's economy is slowing.

Ashley Clayton, associate vice president for stewardship at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee in Nashville, noted, "When you look at the economy around us, the sagging real estate market and the mortgage companies that are failing and having to be bailed out by the government and by large banks, the cutting of interest rates, all of this is an attempt to bolster a sagging economy that frankly is laboring under debt. Debt is what's driving it."

In the It's a New Day initiative, Clayton said, "[W]e undertook to address personal finances, helping people get out of debt, and what we're finding is the timing for this initiative seems to be right because people are very aware of the problem in their own lives and in the lives of people around them."

People are in more debt than ever, and the unfortunate truth, he said, is that the conditions inside the church are not any different than they are outside the church.

The SBC annual meeting in San Antonio last summer was like Day 1 for It's a New Day, Clayton said, because that's when it started gaining momentum as pastors and churches became aware of the renewed stewardship emphasis.

"From that point forward, we began to see a lot of traction from churches across the convention," he said. "As a matter of fact, we believe that there are close to 1,000 churches who have implemented It's a New Day resources in their church."

In most of those churches, pastors have utilized the four-week stewardship messages prepared for them by Crown Financial Ministries, a partner with the Executive Committee for It's a New Day.

A good number of churches, Clayton said, now are implementing the 10-week small group studies that Crown offers, and pastors are attending one-day financial freedom conferences sponsored by the EC and Crown. Those conferences, Clayton said, are proving to be more successful than the two-day regional conferences that required pastors to give more of their time.

At the one-day conferences, pastors and church staff are introduced to the Crown budgeting system and then are led through a con-

ference notebook to learn how to establish a personal budget and get out of debt.

"The result of this is we're seeing pastors engaging in a personal journey of financial freedom for themselves and we see these pastors then going back to their churches to be a catalyst for change," Clayton said. "We feel like we've hit on a way to engage our pastors, as many as we can across the convention."

The stewardship emphasis also has the potential to be an effective evangelism strategy, Clayton said. More than 17,000 professions of faith were recorded among people in North America who enrolled in the Crown Financial Ministries 10-week small group study. Clayton expects a similar benefit to the Kingdom as Southern Baptists invite their communities to study God's Word with them, using the topic of financial freedom as a springboard.

Upcoming one-day conferences for pastors and church staff are in Indianapolis March 27 and Portland, Ore., April 3. Visit www.sbc.net/newday for a complete list. Various state conventions are planning additional It's a New Day-related events to allow as many pastors to attend as possible, Clayton said.

Also, the stewardship office has started to consult with Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth about involving students in a personal journey of financial freedom.

"Ultimately we intend to go to all six seminary campuses and try to get our young leaders to avoid the mistakes of so many of our pastors, so they don't find themselves in debt," Clayton said. "We're trying to engage early on to get our young seminary students to implement good financial practices in their own families."

"What we're discovering is we're graduating seminary students with a large amount of student loan debt, credit card debt and frankly not prepared to be financially free as they become pastors and church leaders," he added. "We're trying to get ahead of the game instead of coming in on the back end and trying to help people who've already found themselves in trouble."

Another key element of the stewardship emphasis is the Executive Committee's partnership with Crown Financial and Holman Bible Outreach International, a division of Broadman & Holman, to produce an It's a New Day New Testament with 30 days of devotions addressing finances.

"Churches are selling them or giving

IT'S A
NEW DAY
NEW
TESTAMENT



them to their church members in preparation for the It's a New Day four-week sermon series," Clayton said. "They're priced to be affordable when purchased in bulk. You can buy them for 75 cents when purchased by the case. They retail in the store for \$1.50. These have been very popular among pastors and churches to prepare people for a church-wide emphasis."

The Executive Committee is continuing its partnership with PhilanthroCorp, the Colorado-based planned giving specialists, to equip churches with tools for guiding church members in Christian estate planning.

Clayton said at least four state Baptist foundations and several large churches have partnered directly with PhilanthroCorp to assist in planned giving.

"Overall, during the past year, the It's a New Day initiative is gaining great momentum," Clayton said. "Crown is proving to be a great friend to Southern Baptists. They've been great partners in producing materials and driving their prices down. The one-day pastors' conferences where pastors can drive in and drive home on the same day are proving to be very successful."

"The production of the HBOI testament has been positive, and our partnership with PhilanthroCorp has been very helpful," he added.

"[Missiologist] Ed Stetzer has said that doing a financial emphasis in your church might be the best cultural bridge that churches have," Clayton said, referring to LifeWay Christian Resources' director of research. "When it comes to being authentic and relating to the world around you, you hang out a sign that says, 'Get out of debt here,' and people will line up around your building."

For more information on It's a New Day, contact Stewardship Director Jerry Mixon, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3347 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 347. E-mail: jmixon@mbcb.org.

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Teens and Substance Use: What's The Buzz All About?

By Rob Chambers
CAC Senior Consultant

Why is it that in spite of all the known consequences of drugs and alcohol that teens "experiment" or continue using and abusing these substances? After all, many, if not all teens know of someone who was involved in a drunk driving accident or has been in trouble due to drugs or alcohol. Despite this knowledge many teens think it's worth the chance to "play around" with these substances. Several reasons have been given to explain this rationale, but there is one that is the root of them all.

Many see drugs and alcohol as a novelty — not unlike how a young child would view a new, unfamiliar toy. Like a child, teens view these substances as an anomaly or something to play with that will produce new excitement and, in their mind, the risk of the harmful effects is worth the perceived reward of a new adventure.

Still, other youth have no problem with drugs or alcohol because they see the use of drugs and alcohol as normative. Many see it used and abused in their homes, and nearly all have been exposed to a pop culture that has portrayed substance abuse as normal, accepted behavior.

For example, teens see substance abuse in TV shows and movies, and hear it affirmed in music they listen to. They see the behavior of the likes of Britney Spears or hear music like Indo G's new album, Purple Drank, named after a cough syrup concoction that gives a buzz similar to smoking marijuana. Teens see or hear of this behavior and perceive it as normal and draw the conclusion that

"since everyone else is doing it," then it must be ok.

The idiom "birds of a feather flock together" can somewhat be said of teens as they are quasi-tribal as they move in groups. This is not necessarily a bad thing but can be if they don't know who they are themselves. The truth is many teens are unsure of who they are and, hence, they don't know what flock to fly with — much less the one they ought to fly with when facing peer pressure. A Christian, whose identity is tempted by and given over to sin, chooses to act immorally.

Unfortunately, a teen's desire for significance and belonging manifests itself in the abuse of drugs and alcohol. A deceptive and destructive identity has been chosen over the true, life-giving identity 'in Christ.

Teens whose identity isn't grounded in a biblical, Christian worldview and who are not able to defend that worldview are much more likely to seek or succumb to substance abuse. Studies have shown the greater a teen's maturity of faith, the less likely they are to indulge in "risky" behavior — but this should be no big surprise to the Christian community.

So, what should parents and churches do to ground teens in the Christian faith and prepare them to defend their beliefs when away from church and home and in a secular, humanistic culture?

One of the greatest blessings parents

and churches can do is share with their teens the message of salvation and the truth that as a born-again Christian their identity is found only in Jesus Christ. Also, regularly share the truth that they are complete in Him — not the clothes, cars, friends, or status they do or don't have.

Parents should be involved — not only in their scholastic and extracurricular activities, but more importantly — in their spiritual development which is intended to serve as an underpinning for how their Christian faith affects all areas of their lives.

Let's love our teenagers and serve them in Truth so that the possibility of their lives being destroyed by substance abuse greatly diminishes.



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FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of music and/or youth. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

FBC OLOH, is currently accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Please submit resumes to FBC Oloh, attn: pastor search committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS. 39482.

FBC ROLLING FORK, MISS., is seeking a full-time or part-time minister of music. Position includes salary and house. Youth experience would also be helpful but not necessary. Please send resumes to Andy Anderson; FBC, of Rolling Fork; 73 North Second Street, Rolling Fork, MS 39159.

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HERITAGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH seeking a qualified individual to serve as minister of youth and children. Interested applicants send resume to youth and children minister search committee, Heritage Heights Baptist Church, 4140 Hwy 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440. Or email to heritageheights@bellsouth.net. For additional info contact David White, committee chairman at (601) 649-5760.

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A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals select these gifts to honor someone special in their lives. The gifts are presented to the person being honored at the next meeting of the Village View. Gifts of Honor and Memory are a wonderful way to show your appreciation for someone special in your life.

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Stephanie Saunders, Senior at Northwest Rankin HS, recently organized a benefit concert for The Baptist Children's Village as her senior project. The project raised nearly \$2,000 for the ministry. (Pictured L-R) Stephanie Saunders and Chrystelle Thames, BCV Director of Public Relations.



The Baptist Children's Village has begun construction on a new satellite campus in Winston County in the Nanaih Waiya community. The facility is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2008 and will house 6 boys and 6 girls. Please contact Mrs. Chrystelle Thames at cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242 for more information on how you may be involved.

BCV Employment Opportunities

The Baptist Children's Village is now accepting applications through March 31, 2008 for openings on the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson and the Reedy Acres Campus in Water Valley for the position of houseparent.

The primary job responsibility of a houseparent is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and/or youth residents. Other duties of a houseparent are many and are varied and somewhat dependent upon the specific program and cottage to which assigned. The following list of responsibilities is to provide an overview of the job and is not an exhaustive list.

Job responsibilities:

- Provide immediate supervision of residents in the cottage and other settings
- Participate fully in the implementation of each resident's Plan of Care
- Model Christian values and lifestyle for residents and their families
- Model a healthy physical, social and emotional lifestyle for residents
- Serve as the primary transportation resource for residents of assigned cottage

Job requirements:

- 25-65 years of age
- A husband/wife team will be considered for this position
- Good physical, mental and emotional health
- Stable, even disposition
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Educational background must be at a minimum a GED, but some college is preferred
- Experience in child rearing is preferred
- Must be flexible and able to work in a team environment
- Good organizational skills

To request an application please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or call 601-922-2242.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

It's All About Love

John 3:16; 1 John 3:16-20; 4:15-18; 5:2-5

By Rick Henson

A popular song from the 1970's said, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of." The songwriter correctly encouraged people to love one another, but his premise was incorrect.

Love seems to be in short supply in the post-9/11 world in which we live. The news yields reports of deaths and disaster at the hands of mankind. Five people were killed Monday March 3, 2008 in Memphis. February 2 of this year five women were killed at a Chicago clothing store. Recent history documents indescribable inhumane treatment of people around the world. The holocaust in Europe in the 1940's, the killing fields of Cambodia in the 1980's, the

genocide in Rwanda in central Africa in the 1990's, and the discovery of mass graves of over 400,000 bodies in Iraq in the 2000's remind us that mankind is capable of horrible acts against anyone.

The world cries out for love and acceptance. The world religions teach it. The poets fill sonnets with it. The songwriters rhyme it and promote it. The dreamers imagine it. John Lennon sang, "All you need is love." However, these singers and poets promote human love, which will ultimately fail, as humans do. Human love is based on human emotions and commitments, which are all flawed. Some people believe that more love will solve the world's problems.

Contrary to the cries of the



Henson

songwriters and poets, however, more than enough love already exists in the world. If you doubt that, look to Calvary and God's great demonstration of His love through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus. The problems in this world do not arise from a lack of love, but from man's rejection of God's love. Mankind rejects God's love, and then criticizes God for allowing the unloving actions of unrepentant man.

Our focal passages this week teaches us about God's love. John 3:16 states God's love for the world is revealed in the death of Jesus Christ. The King James Version (KJV) reads, "For God so loved the world..." This states the measure of His love. The Holman Christian Standard Bible version (CSB) reads, "For God loved the world in this way..." Both are accurate translations of an adverb in the original New Testament language. The KJV translates it to emphasize the degree of God's love, while

the CSB emphasizes the manner of God's love. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit the Apostle John selected this adverb to emphasize both the depth of God's love and the manner in which He demonstrated it.

Jesus revealed in His death on the cross the depth of God's love and the method God chose to demonstrate His love. We demonstrate our being born again by loving as He loved us.

1 John 3:16 (CSB) reads, "This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers." 1 John 4:19 (CSB) reads, "We love because He first loved us." We love in response to God's heavenly love.

If we do not respond to God's love, we do not know Him and have not experienced His love. 1 John 3:14 (CSB) confirms this: "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death."

How do we love others? The

Bible teaches in Acts 1:38 that Jesus went about doing good deeds. When we help others, we show God's love. Galatians 6:1 states that we love others by restoring those who fail. We demonstrate God's love for the lost when we obey the Scriptures and share God's good news with them. Romans 12:10 (CSB) reads "Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor."

In other words, we represent Christ to the world when we love each other in the body of Christ and model Jesus to those outside the body of Christ. The transient love of this age depends on the recipient. "I love you because you are ____." God's love depends upon Him, and, "God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!" Romans 5:8 (CSB). The post 9/11 world needs some good ole fashioned 3:16 love. Will you love the unlovely in Jesus name?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Growing Spiritually Through Crises

Genesis 32:6-12, 24-31

By Marion D. Duncan

Twenty years had passed since Jacob fled Esau's wrath and subsequently experienced his first spiritual crisis, the ladder at Bethel which led him to salvation. Jacob was being obedient to God in returning to Canaan when he met the angel escort God had put before and after him to provide divine protection for him and all that he had. (Genesis 32:1)

John Wesley rode horse back on a lonely road and saw shadowy forms ahead. Unafraid, he began to pray as he approached them. From behind, he heard hoofbeats, and another rider caught up with him. Wesley greeted him, and the two continued in silence safely past the place where the highway robbers hid. Wesley turned to speak to his companion and

discovered he had vanished just like he had appeared. He had glimpsed his "angel escort" along the way. (Exploring Genesis, John Phillips)

Jacob named the place of the angel encounter Mahanaim, the two hosts, recognizing his own entourage as one host and the mighty army of angels, as the other. (32:2) From this vision, Jacob discerned that he was in the will of God. This host is the same that provides divine intervention in the lives of God's children today.

Trusting God's faithfulness was not yet a reality in Jacob's mind and heart. (32:6-8) He continued with his own plan for the unresolved problem with Esau and the threat Esau had made against Jacob's life. He sent messengers ahead to nego-



Duncan

tiate peace with Esau, but upon hearing that Esau was advancing toward his caravan with four hundred men, Jacob was distressed and fearful. He divided the people with him and all his possessions into two groups hoping that some of them would escape to safety.

When the negotiation for peace failed, Jacob realized that the outcome did not depend on him, but on God. He prayed an intercessory prayer that stands as a model. First, he claimed the purpose of God in his return to the land of Canaan and that he was right where God wanted him to be. Next, he pleaded God's providence, visible in all his wealth around him, acknowledging that he stood in the place where he stood twenty years before with only a staff. Then, Jacob admitted his fear and asked God for protection as he encountered his brother who was known to be a cruel and fierce man. Finally, Jacob boldly reminded God of His

promise to prosper him and make his descendants like the sand of the sea-innumerable! The Promise Keeping God does not need to be reminded of His promises, but He delights in the prayers of His beloved children. (32:9-12)

Even after his intercessory prayer, Jacob continued to use human ways to accomplish God's purpose. He bargained for peace with Esau through conciliation. Jacob selected a generous and costly gift of what he had and sent it ahead to his brother instructing the servants to pay homage to Esau and to prepare the way for him and the others to be well received. (32:13-21) He sought to make restitution and more for what he had stolen.

That night, he sent his two wives, two maidservants, eleven sons, and all his possessions across the ford at Jabbok, and he alone remained. A man wrestled Jacob until daybreak. (32:22-24) Seeing that he could not overpower him, the man touched Jacob's hip and dislocated it. All he could do now was cling to the visitor and refuse to release him

without a blessing. The visitor told him his name would no longer be Jacob, or Cheater, or Supplanter, but would be Israel, "he struggles with God," signifying the new nature present in him. Jacob realized it was the Lord with whom he had fought all his battles and who now had broken and blessed him. (32:25-29)

Thus, at Jabbok, Jacob experienced the second great spiritual crisis in his life—that of sanctification-changed behavior. He saw the Lord, became a broken man and a saint of God, and died to self. Jacob called this place Peniel because he had seen "the face of God" and yet he lived. (32:30)

The old Jacob surfaced quickly for he placed the lesser loved members of his family near the front of the line to meet Esau in case of a hostile encounter. (33:1-2) However, the meeting of the twin brothers (33:3-20) could have been the Old Testament basis for the parable Jesus told of the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-32)

Duncan is wMu director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. **Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.**

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

California judge stuns home-schoolers with latest ruling

LOS ANGELES (BP) — In a decision that has alarmed the homeschooling community nationwide, a California appeals court has ruled parents have no constitutional right to homeschool their children and that those parents who do must be credentialed teachers.

The decision was issued Feb. 28 but wasn't picked up by national media until March 6. The court case arose in juvenile court and the parties had court-appointed attorneys, meaning that even some of the nation's leading homeschooling organizations, such as the Home School Legal Defense Association, didn't know about the case until the ruling was issued.

Despite that fact it flew under the radar, it could have broad implications on the state's estimated 166,000 homeschool students and set a dangerous precedent for other such students nationwide. The decision is particularly troublesome, pro-family leaders say, because California's public schools have some of the more liberal laws in the nation regarding the teaching about sexuality and homosexuality.

More than five years ago Focus on the Family's James Dobson said if he had children in California's public schools, he would pull them out.

Justice H. Walter Croskey wrote the ruling for the three-judge panel, which was unanimous in its decision. "California courts have held that under provisions in the Education Code, parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children," Croskey wrote.

California law, the court ruled, requires that children be enrolled and attend a public or private school or be "tutored by a person holding a valid state teaching credential for the grade being

taught."

Parents who fail to follow the state law could face criminal penalties.

"Because parents have a legal duty to see to their children's schooling within the provisions of these laws, parents who fail to do so may be subject to a criminal complaint against them, found guilty of an infraction, and subject to imposition of fines or an order to complete a parent education and counseling program," the court wrote.

"Additionally, the parents are subject to being ordered to enroll their children in an appropriate school or education program and provide proof of enrollment to the court, and willful failure to comply with such an order may be punished by a fine for civil contempt."

The court's ruling overturned a lower court decision that had ruled parents do indeed have a constitutional right to homeschool their children. The appeals court's decision is being appealed to the California Supreme Court.

The case involved an unidentified family that had homeschooled its eight children. One of the children reported physical and emotional abuse by the father, leading to an investigation by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and eventually to the court case.

Focus on the Family issued a statement saying that the court should have limited the decision to the specific situation but instead "overreached" and applied it to all homeschooling situations.

The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), a legal organization that defends homeschoolers, said the court made a mistake by relying on a California court ruling from 1953.

"If the opinion is followed then California will

have the most regressive law in the nation and homeschooling will be effectively banned because the only legal way to homeschool will be for the parent to hold a teaching certificate," the association said.

"Parents should not have to attend a four year college education program just to teach their own children. California is now on the path to being the only state to deny the vast majority of homeschooling parents their fundamental right to teach their own children at home."

HSLDA is gathering petitions to ask the California Supreme Court to "de-publish" the opinion. If the opinion is de-published it would have no authority, the organization said. The petition can be signed at the association's website, www.hsllda.org.

Another legal organization, the California-based Pacific Justice Institute, called the scope of the decision "breathtaking."

"It not only attacks traditional home schooling, but also calls into question home schooling through charter schools and teaching children at home via independent study through public and private schools," Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, said in a statement. "If not reversed, the parents of the more than 166,000 students currently receiving an education at home will be subject to criminal sanctions."

The HomeSchool Association of California posted a statement on its website recommending that California parents "not change anything they are doing," "support the groups who are handling this," and "don't panic."

"It is quite possible that we can reach a result that limits the impact of this case and makes legislation unnecessary," the statement said.

Planned Parenthood accepts racially-charged abortion donations

WASHINGTON (BP) — Planned Parenthood, an organization that calls itself pro-child, pro-woman and pro-life, has been discovered allegedly accepting racist-motivated donations.

A recent investigation by The Advocate student magazine at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), produced phone recordings of Planned Parenthood affiliates in seven states approving a donor's racist motivation.

The magazine had an actor pose as a donor and call the clinics to see how Planned Parenthood employees would respond as he expressed openly racist comments. The actor said he wanted his gift to be used to abort African American babies to "lower the number of black people," according to The Advocate.

None of the affiliates expressed reservations about the reason for the contribution, the magazine reported.

An Idaho Planned Parenthood staff member agreed on a telephone call that blacks should be implementing more abortions. According to The Advocate, the actor said in a phone call that "the less black kids out there the better." In response, Autumn Kersey, vice president of marketing and development for Planned Parenthood of Idaho, said she understood, according to the magazine.

She also commented, LifeNews.com reported, "This is the first time I've had a donor call and make this kind of request, so I'm excited, and want to make sure I don't leave anything out."

Another phone recording caught an Ohio Planned Parenthood worker saying "we'll accept the money for whatever reason" in response to the actor's racist-motivated donation. The Advocate reported.

Outraged by the phone recordings, some UCLA students have been peti-

tioning the school to cut off connections with Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood of Idaho CEO Rebecca Poedy apologized for Kersey's comments initially, saying she made a "serious mistake," according to LifeNews. On Feb. 28, however, Poedy backtracked in remarks to the Boise Weekly, describing The Advocate as "extremist" and charging it had "manipulated a 25-minute conversation."

Clenard Childress, founder of BlackGenocide.org, said in a written statement, "No other ethnic group in the United States has been decimated more by abortion than the Afro-American community. The war being waged upon innocent captives in the womb is led by Planned Parenthood."

Black women were 4.8 times as likely as non-Hispanic white women to have abortions in 2005, according to a January report by the Guttmacher Institute. African Americans made up 12.3% of the United States population, according to the 2000 census, but black women had 36.3% of the abortions that same year, the Centers for Disease Control reported.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the country's No. 1 abortion provider. More than 260,000 babies were aborted in its clinics in 2005, a 15% increase from 2002.

The report of receiving racist-motivated donors is not the only thing about Planned Parenthood that has brought recent protests. Additionally:

- Alveda King, niece of the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., denounced Planned Parenthood's use of her uncle's words and images on its website.

"Planned Parenthood is no stranger to deception," King said in a written release. "I know firsthand because prior to my abortion, a Planned

Parenthood doctor told me my baby was just a 'blob of tissue.' Now, Planned Parenthood lies by trying to imply that my uncle would somehow endorse the organization today. He most certainly would not."

King said her uncle accepted an award from Planned Parenthood in 1966 before the organization began publicly advocating abortion and before abortion itself was legal nationwide. If he had known the true agenda, her uncle would not have associated with the organization, she said.

- Planned Parenthood's TeenWire website "encourages kids to play sexual games or explore bisexuality and it gives teens advice on how to avoid telling their parents about a possible abortion," LifeNews reported Feb. 28.

Some content on the website is so graphic that certain Internet filters are preventing access to it, according to LifeNews.

- The opening next fall of a 78,000-square-foot facility by the University of Houston also has prompted some protests. The Houston clinic will have an entire floor dedicated to late-term pregnancies, according to LifeSiteNews.com.

Planned Parenthood likes to locate near universities to make it easier for young women to use their abortion services, a Houston Coalition for Life spokeswoman told LifeSite.

This new facility exceeds by far the 22,000-square-foot clinic opened in Aurora, Ill., last year and the 50,000-square-foot facility being built in Denver.

Planned Parenthood receives nearly a third of its money in government grants and contracts that added up to \$305.3 million in 2006. "With over \$300 million in taxpayer funds, the organization has the U.S. government to thank for helping to promote these messages," Family Research Council

President Tony Perkins said.

Pro-life members of Congress have been fighting for the federal government to stop funding the organization.

On Feb. 27, Virginia made some progress in that direction. Members of the Virginia Senate voted to cut off state funding of Planned Parenthood because of the number of abortions it performs each year.


Pro-choice Virginia senators opposed the ruling. Sen. Janet Howell claimed the amendment would lead to women dying from illegal abortions. However, the legislation passed by the narrowest of margins. Senators tied 20-20, and Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, a Republican, broke the tie in favor of the measure, according to The Washington Post.

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